



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
January 12, 2016
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Larry Barlow- MMS Vice Principal
Annastasia Martineau, Senior at EO Smith High School and Mansfield Resident

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:03 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Introduction of Prospective New Members of Advisory Board:

- Julie Menard, a Social Worker in the state of Connecticut for the Department of Developmental Services was unable to attend the meeting today and she will not be able to serve on our Board.

III. Approval of minutes

- Approval of minutes December 8th, 2015

IV. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - The four distinct budgets used for different departments will be merged into one this year for simplification and efficiency, it will look different but the amounts will stay the same
 - We are working towards sustaining programs in early childhood development
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak

Mommy and Me: Youth Services has been working to develop this group over the last several months and is attempting to reach mothers who are isolated from the community. Transportation is a barrier for mothers reaching the group meeting place. Staff is exploring moving the location to the Library to reach mothers in that area.

Community Out Reach: Staff facilitated a meeting with senior center staff and UConn Community Outreach to develop a working relationship between the senior center and the volunteer provider. The goal was to assist the senior center to more fully utilize the volunteers that are provided by the Outreach program.

Clothing Pantry: The Superintendent of MBOE suggested to the Early Childhood Services Coordinator that clothing donations would be a good way to help children in Mansfield. Youth Services and Human Services staff has been working with My Brother's Keeper at Hope Lutheran Church to make this happen.

Regional Toy Drive: Staff worked with Tolland Human Services to organize and distribute toy donations collected by State Troopers.

Grief & Grandparents Group: These continue to be important and well-attended support groups for families especially during the holiday season.

Holiday Program: YSB assisted with the large quantity of food donated to the department food pantry. We also provided a high school student the opportunity to assist with the organization of donated goods.

Southeast Mitten Tree: Southeast once again generously collected hats, mittens, scarves, and coats. YSB staff will be distributing them throughout the winter.

Eastconn: Francine Piela is a team building coach and will be assisting us with positive youth development programs.

MAC: Derek Dilaj, Assistant Town Engineer, addressed the membership regarding safe routes to school and other public work projects that effect families.

Community Update emails: Weekly emails are being sent to a growing group of parents, providers and educators with information about local activities and ways to engage in the community.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business:

- Clothing Pantry
- Conversation Club
- Mommy and Me Group
- Middle School After school Girl's group

VII. Other:

- The YSB will be looking into reaching out to the faith community more, as well as more direct outreach and connections to families in need.

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:42pm, February 9th, 2016 is the next meeting.